

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert in the first sentence after the title, the following new paragraph.

This application is the U.S. national phase of International Application PCT/EP2003/013807, filed November 25, 2003, claiming priority to European Patent Application Number 02080616.2 filed December 18, 2002, and the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) of U.S. Provisional Application Number 60/435,195, filed December 20, 2002; the disclosures of International Application PCT/EP2003/013807, European Patent Application 02080616.2, and U.S. Provisional Application Number 60/435,195, each as filed, are incorporated herein by reference.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 24, and ending at line 31 with the following paragraph.

The homogeneous distribution of the comonomer (α -olefin) in and among the polymer chains is very important. In fact, having a comonomer ~~randomly~~ or alternatively distributed along the polymer chain and, at the same time, having the polymer fractions with a similar average content of comonomer (narrow distribution of composition) allows the achievement of high quality ethylene copolymers. These latter usually combine, at the same time, a density sufficiently lower with respect to HDPE and a low content of polymer fractions soluble in hydrocarbon solvents like hexane or xylene which worsen certain properties of the said copolymers.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 5, and ending at line 6 with the following paragraph.

The Mg/Ti molar ratio ranges preferably ~~from 7 to 120~~ from 10 to 110 and more particularly from 15 to 100.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 4, and ending at line 10, with the following paragraph.

In addition, the electron donor compound can also be advantageously selected from silicon compounds of formula $R_a^5R_b^6Si(OR^7)_c$, where a and b are ~~integer~~ integers from 0 to 2, c is an integer

from 1 to 3 and the sum (a+b+c) is 4; R⁵, R⁶, and R⁷, are alkyl, cycloalkyl or aryl radicals with 1-18 carbon atoms optionally containing heteroatoms. Particularly preferred are the silicon compounds in which a is 0, c is 3, R⁶ is a branched alkyl or cycloalkyl group, optionally containing heteroatoms, and R⁷ is methyl. Examples of such preferred silicon compounds are cyclohexyltrimethoxysilane, t-butytrimethoxysilane and thexytrimethoxysilane.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 17, line 18, and ending at line 29 with the following paragraph.

Example 18

The solid intermediate (Ti = 4.9 %wt; Mg = 19.4 %wt).~~prepared~~ prepared according to example 12 was injected into an autoclave and kept at 30°C stirring in anhydrous hexane (the concentration of the solid was 40g/L) under nitrogen atmosphere. The suspension was treated with an amount of a 10 %wt solution of tri-ethyl-aluminium (TEA) in hexane to achieve a ratio TEA/solid = 0.5 wt/wt. An amount of propylene equal to 0.7 times the initial quantity of the solid was then slowly fed with a rate suitable to keep the temperature constant at 30°C. After 30 minutes the polymerization was stopped. The solid was washed 3 times with anhydrous hexane at 25 °C, and suspended again in hexane and treated with AcOEt as the ID compound following the same procedure disclosed in example 12 with the difference that a AcOEt/Ti ratio of 8 was used. The characteristics of the catalyst component are reported in Table 1.